

Applicant : Christer O. Andreasson
Appl. No. : 10/085,472
Examiner : Jared Fureman
Docket No. : 706737.35 (formerly 263/291)

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested.

By the present amendment to the specification, several minor typographical errors have been corrected. Additionally, several claims have been cancelled, others have been amended, and new claims have been added. It is respectfully submitted that all of the present claims define patentable subject matter over the prior art.

The present application is particularly directed to a system, such as a closed-loop system, for tracking and monitoring medical products within a healthcare facility, preferably from the receipt of the medical products by a pharmacy of the facility to administration to patients. The system can provide up to the minute inventories of medical products in the pharmacy and within medication dispensing units of the healthcare facility. Furthermore, the system can track the delivery of medical products from the pharmacy to medication dispensing units placed throughout the healthcare facility by verifying that the dispensing units received medical products withdrawn from the pharmacy, and furthermore, the system can monitor the removal of medical products from dispensing units by verifying that healthcare workers only remove those medical products to be administered to patients assigned to the healthcare workers, and can track the delivery of medical products from the dispensing units to patients by verifying that the medical products removed from the dispensing unit are administered to the intended patients. The application thus shows and describes this form of overall system, as well as subcomponents and methods such as certain details of the medication dispensing units themselves.

On the other hand, the cited Wan patent is directed to an online medicine cabinet particularly for use in a home for one or more users of medicine therein. It does describe the use of RFID tags and readers, the use of a smart card or the like to identify the intended recipient of the medication, and the cabinet can include one or more sensors for detecting the medication contained in the medicine cabinet. This patent is not directed toward a tracking and monitoring system as described and claimed in the present application, nor does it disclose apparatus for tracking and dispensing medical products as claimed herein.

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Turning now to the present claims, claims 1-10 particularly describe the present apparatus for tracking medical products, and particularly including a casing comprising a plurality of lockable drawers for receiving and storing medical products therein. Dependent claim 2 further defines the processor for determining the difference between readings of the RFID tags in the drawer taken before and after the medical product is removed from the drawer. Although the Examiner states in the office action that Wan's processor identifies a medical product removed from the compartment by determining a difference between readings before and after the medical product is removed; however, it is respectfully submitted that Wan does not have such a disclosure nor teaching. Certainly Wan does not disclose a casing having a plurality of lockable drawers.

New claims 28-39 define the present overall system with the terminal, such as a pharmacy terminal, management computer, one or more medication dispensing units, and a patient room terminal, and Wan does not disclose any like or similar system for tracking and monitoring medical products within a healthcare facility from receipt of medical products by a pharmacy to administration to patients. Claims 35-38 also define the system disclosed herein of tracking and monitoring medical products involving a terminal, management computer, and RF reader near a doorway for automatically reading RFID tags of medical products as they are, for example, withdrawn from the pharmacy or moved to patients' rooms.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the present application and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

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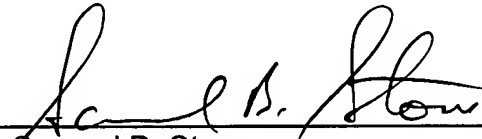
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required by the filing of these papers, and to credit any overpayment to Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe's Deposit Account No. 15-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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